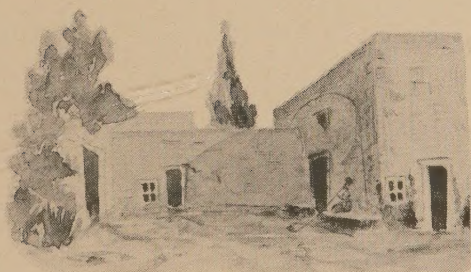


THE WELLCOME INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT of  
WESTERN  
MANUSCRIPTS



ANNUAL REVIEW

1994–95



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**Cover:** Pencil/wash sketch of the courtyard of Charles Lewis Meryon's house, from his own copy of *Travels of Lady Hester Stanhope ... narrated by her physician*, London, 1846. MS 7116. See p. 7



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DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN MANUSCRIPTS  
ANNUAL REVIEW 1994-95**





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## INTRODUCTION

The year 1994–95 was one of steady progress in carrying out a number of major tasks that had been identified in previous years. Chris Hilton completed the catalogue of the Hodgkin family papers, and continued to construct the database of Autograph Letters.

The Curator broke the back of the outstanding cataloguing of the Barlow papers, and oversaw publication of the descriptive booklet on the Western Manuscripts collection. Significant inroads were made into the list of remaining London archive repositories and libraries for the MAMS survey. We look forward to producing reader copies of the Hodgkin and Barlow catalogues in the near future.

We should like to thank John and Leila Hobson for presenting Robert Morrison's memoir of his wife to the Library, and Dr Edith Gilchrist for arranging the deposit of a volume of John Hunter lecture notes. Regrettably, Dr Gilchrist has decided to resign the curatorship of the Hunterian Society, but we look forward to continuing to welcome her to the Library as a reader and Fellow of the Society. We congratulate her successor, Dr Geoffrey Rosenberg, on his election. Sadly, the year under review saw the death of Professor Michael Shepherd of the Institute of Psychiatry. Professor Shepherd played an important part in identifying the historical significance of the records at Ticehurst House hospital in the 1970s, and encouraged their transfer to the care of the Wellcome Institute Library. For this, if for no other reason, historians of psychiatry owe him a debt.

Tracey Wickham, the departmental secretary, moved to other duties in the library in the summer, to be replaced by Katie Beatty. Both have been unfailingly helpful. Our colleagues in the library have allowed us to plunder their respective funds of expertise. Ken Arnold facilitated the library display on phrenology, organized by Chris Hilton. Professor Bynum has, as ever, been a beacon of encouragement and support. The staff of the Wellcome Trust Publishing Department, especially Sophia Flynn, produced the descriptive



booklet with panache, and contributed their creative flair to a number of smaller projects. Catherine Draycott, Chris Carter and the staff of the Photographic Reference Library were indispensable, and deserve special congratulations on the publication of the microfiche edition of the Wellcome Apocalypse. Outside the Wellcome Trust, we should like to thank particularly Peter M Jones, for help with John of Arderne, and Uta Schumacher-Voelker, for assistance regarding Maria Rundell.

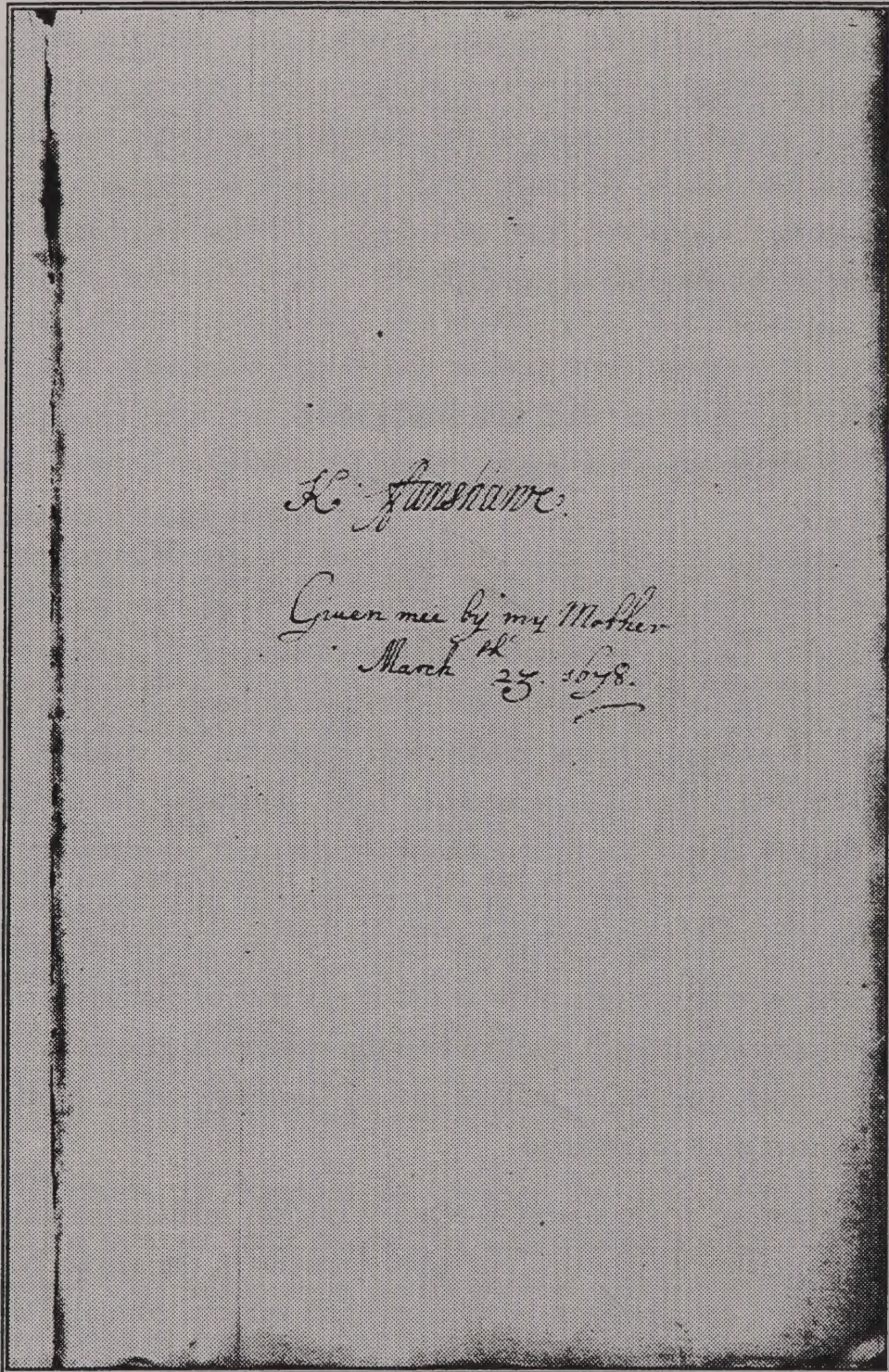
## ACCESSIONS

### Manuscripts

Anyone scanning the published catalogues of Western Manuscripts in the Wellcome Institute Library might be struck by the relative scarcity of sixteenth-century English vernacular medical or surgical manuscripts in the collection. There are only about a half-dozen such items, one of which, the notebook of an anonymous Elizabethan physician or medical student (**MS 6228**), was acquired as recently as 1991. Following the riches of the Middle English texts of the previous century, the dearth is surely significant, especially as the pattern seems to be reflected in other collections, such as the Sloane. But any simple explanation based on the advent of printing is complicated by other factors, such as the abundance of manuscript medical books from the seventeenth century, and the apparently greater numbers of sixteenth-century vernacular manuscripts in Germany, where printing was more advanced than in England.

The acquisition of a rare sixteenth-century English manuscript this year is therefore especially noteworthy. The item, formerly in the private collection of a doctor, is a compendium of medicine and surgery, compiled in about 1575 by an unknown Elizabethan practitioner (**MS 7117**). The compendium includes an incomplete version of the English translation of John of Arderne's treatise on fistula, which was printed in 1588; recipes; lists of simples and their uses; notes on astrological medicine, blood-letting and purging; and an





Katherine Fanshawe's ownership inscription, from the recipe book of her mother, Lady Ann Fanshawe, wife of Sir Richard Fanshawe, English ambassador to Spain, compiled from 1651. MS 7113.



illustrated guide to urine diagnosis. Much of the subject matter is familiar, suggestive of the sort of material found in earlier leechbooks, but the contents are so dense, and the range and number of allusions so wide, that the manuscript will clearly repay years of study. It has already aroused considerable interest among scholars, and we look forward to making it available for research and exhibition.

Our other accessions during the year were dominated by the personalities of three formidable women. Lady Ann Fanshawe (1625–1680), wife of the royalist scholar-poet and diplomat Sir Richard Fanshawe, was a prominent figure in royalist circles in the mid-seventeenth century. Her eldest surviving child, Katherine (b.1652), inherited her mother's medical recipe book shortly before the latter's death, as she herself recorded at the beginning of the volume. This manuscript, which we have acquired (**MS 7113**, *left*), is of unusual interest as a record of a family about which a wealth of personal information is already known, largely through Ann Fanshawe's own memoirs. Addressed to her youngest child, Sir Richard's heir and namesake, the memoirs were transcribed for her in 1676 and later published by a descendant. The recipe book is also partly in the hand of an amanuensis, although there is a good deal of marginalia in Ann's own hand, as well as later entries by Katherine. Many recipes are ascribed to Ann's mother, Lady Margaret Harrison *née* Fanshawe (d.1640), whom she describes in her memoirs as, 'very pious and charitable to the degree that she relieved (besides the offals of the table which she constantly gave to the poor) many with her own hand daily out of her purse and dressed many wounds of miserable people.'

Other recipes are ascribed to various members of the extended Fanshawe family, to Sir Kenelm Digby, and others, and the manuscript provides an interesting complement to the memoirs, as well as documenting the transfer of medical and household lore across three generations. The earliest entries are dated December 1651, when Sir Richard Fanshawe had just been released from custody on bail, on account of ill health, following his capture after the battle of Worcester. The latest entries, apart from those made by

Katherine Fanshawe, are dated Madrid, 1664–65, where Fanshawe was English ambassador. The compilation of the book thus spans a period in Ann Fanshawe's life which saw her status change from that of traitor's wife to lady at the court of Philip IV. In the meantime she bore eight children and buried six, apart from the three who had already died before 1651. Katherine Fanshawe, who never married, was still alive in 1719, when she still presumably held the recipe book. Its subsequent history until it resurfaced at auction in 1995 is unknown.

Another mother–daughter nexus is illuminated by a manuscript manual on pregnancy and childcare that we purchased this year (**MS 7106**). Maria Eliza Rundell (1745–1828), the well-known writer on cookery, was the wife of Thomas Rundell, a surgeon of Bath. Until the discovery of her book of advice for her daughter Harriet, however, it was not suspected that she herself wrote on medicine. Nor was anything known of Harriet, although five older children were already documented. Mrs Rundell is a figure of great interest to historians of cookery, and particularly cookery-book publishing. Her publisher, John Murray, was finally persuaded to part with over £2000 for the rights to her bestseller, *A new system of domestic cookery*, although it was at first offered to him gratuitously, as the Rundells were family friends. The phenomenal success of *Domestic cookery* led eventually to the author and publisher falling out over the spoils, but it nevertheless restored John Murray's business fortunes, and reputedly financed publication of Byron's works:

Along thy sprucest book-shelves shine  
The works thou deemest most divine,  
The Art of Cookery and mine,  
My Murray!

Mrs Rundell's manual of childcare is dated October 1810, some five years after the first edition of *Domestic cookery*. There is no obvious hint that it was ever intended for publication, although one imagines that Murray would have jumped at the chance. It is addressed to a married daughter, as indeed was the



cookery book at first, and is full of the sort of sound, commonsense advice one would expect from a surgeon's widow, aged well over 60, with long personal experience of bringing up children. The manuscript was in the collection of the Dorset doctor Julian Redmill, which was sold at auction in 1994.

Lady Hester Stanhope (1776–1839), the third and best-known of the viragos represented in our accessions for 1994–95, needs little introduction. Her eccentricities were legion, and so well-documented as to make her the archetype of the batty English female expatriate. Much of the surviving correspondence of Charles Lewis Meryon (1783–1877), Lady Hester's physician and source of most of our knowledge about her, has long been in the Wellcome collection (see *Annual Review* 1991–92, p. 7). Meryon published two multi-volume works on her life, *Memoirs of Lady Hester Stanhope* in 1845, and *Travels of Lady Hester Stanhope* the following year. The latter, covering Lady Hester's earlier wanderings in the eastern Mediterranean and Syria from 1810 to 1817, coincides with Meryon's first period of service as her personal physician. He was to return on more than one occasion, like a moth to the flame, unable to resist the pleas of the increasingly outrageous woman who was to dominate his long life.

Meryon had a set of the *Travels* interleaved and bound for him in six volumes, in which, from about 1859, he began to insert additional matter from his own papers and from memory. The last volume of the six recently came to light and was acquired for the Western Manuscripts collection (**MS 7116**). Whether or not Meryon intended to publish a second, enlarged edition of the *Travels* is not quite clear. Much of the additional material is of the type which might have caused offence if printed. Probably Meryon was simply too obsessed with his subject to set it aside. He recounts his anecdotes of Lady Hester's absurd prejudices with a sort of horrified fascination. One of her victims, the explorer John Lewis Burckhardt (1784–1817), known as 'Sheikh Ibrahim,' was dismissed thus: 'Ah! Noone can deceive me. The moment I saw him at Nazareth I knew what he was. A man with such teeth as he had is always malicious, and I am sure he is dissolute.' Beneath this quote, Meryon noted that, 'Sheykh Ibrahim had very uneven teeth.'

The book was formerly in the library of Wilhelmina, Duchess of Cleveland (1819–1901), Lady Hester Stanhope's niece, and was inherited by her son, the fifth Earl of Rosebery. In 1933 it was sold at auction, by which time it had already become separated from its fellow volumes. The whereabouts of these are unknown.

The Western Manuscripts collection already holds extensive resources for the study of medical and surgical teaching and practice at Montpellier, particularly in the early modern period. We recently acquired a volume of anatomical lecture notes of 1704 from Montpellier (**MS 7032**) (see *Annual Review* 1992–93, p. 6). We have now added a volume of medical treatises based on the practice of Charles Barbeyrac (1629–1699), apparently penned by a pupil towards the end of the seventeenth century (**MS 7126**). Barbeyrac had many pupils and was an influential figure in the development of clinical practice in France. He seems to have published nothing, the titles ascribed to him being reckoned the works of others adducing the name of a recognized authority. Surviving manuscripts documenting Barbeyrac's thought also appear to be scarce; a notebook of observations made under Barbeyrac, now in the library of the Faculté de Médecine, Paris, and a treatise on venereal diseases and consilia in the Sloane collection, are the only related manuscripts we have yet been able to identify, although there are formularies and a further version of Barbeyrac's treatise on venereal diseases already in the Wellcome collection (**MSS 1055–1061, 2525**).

A particular point of interest concerns Barbeyrac's supposed influence on Thomas Sydenham. It is now thought unlikely that there was any personal connection between the two, and certainly Sydenham's putative sojourn at Montpellier is dismissed as apocryphal. If there is no evidence that Sydenham had ever heard of Barbeyrac, his own work was known to the latter, as is confirmed in our manuscript where the Englishman's distinction between species of fevers is criticized. The treatises also contain a good deal of case-study material, opening a window onto medical life in Montpellier at the end of the seventeenth century: M Germain, a surgeon of the town



who had suffered from intermittent urine stoppage for 40 years, rendering him virtually paralysed, was despaired of by Montpellier's medical practitioners, who had concluded that he had diseased kidneys; putting himself finally in the hands of Barbeyrac, he was cured with ass's milk and laudanum, 'which astonished everybody.'

When the Hunterian Society disposed of its library in 1914, only the printed works by John Hunter and manuscript notes of his lectures were excluded from the transaction. Such items have always been prized above all by the Society. We were delighted to receive this year a further volume of John Hunter lecture notes on behalf of the Hunterian Society, whose records and collection of manuscripts have been deposited in the Wellcome Institute Library since 1971. The new acquisition is an incomplete transcript of Hunter's lectures on the principles of surgery, together with notes from his lectures on venereal diseases, copied at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The scribe is unidentified, but claims to have based his text on notes taken by William Babington (1756–1833), Thomas Skeete (1757–1789) and Henry Fearon (d.1803), borrowed from a pupil of the last-named. The volume was formerly in the collection of Warren G Smirl, an American physician, which was sold at auction in 1994.

Year after year, the majority of new accessions to the Western Manuscripts date from the nineteenth century, and 1994–95 has been no exception. The records of the proprietorship of a Georgian patent remedy, Dr Joshua Webster's English Herb Diet Drink, which we purchased this year, are largely from the nineteenth century, even though the recipe dated back to 1742. Perhaps the most interesting component of these records is the advertising material, described briefly in *TRP3: Research and Funding News from the Wellcome Trust*, issue 4 (1995), p. 29. The records have not yet been catalogued, and a fuller description will be provided in next year's Review.

Journals and diaries are among the most common of personal papers, and often the most accessible. Few other types of personal document speak to us as directly as those deliberately compiled for record purposes. The motive for

starting a journal was often an interruption of normal routine, such as a foreign voyage, as in the case of the anonymous surgeon of the East India Company ship *William Miles*, whose journal we acquired this year (**MS 7114**). He began his account the day he joined the vessel at London docks on 10 May 1819, and continued it for almost a year after his return from India in May 1820. His medical role seems to have been minimal and, when rarely invoked, remarkably ineffectual, but he makes interesting observations about cholera in India, the Madras Medical Fund and other matters related to medicine, and is clearly a curious traveller and incorrigible gossip. On the journey home the ship put in at St Helena, where the author picked up the local chatter about Napoleon, who 'employed himself all day working in his garden dressed in a Nankin jacket and trowsers, building fortifications to screen him from observers, into which he ran, like a rabbit into a warren, when he saw anyone approach.'

Another voyage home from the East is documented by the touching memoir of his late wife written by Robert Morrison (1782–1834), missionary in China, on board HEICS *Waterloo* in January 1824. The item was given this year by his descendant, Mr John Hobson (**MS 7127**). The papers of Dr Benjamin Hobson (1816–1873), medical missionary in China and translator, and of his father-in-law Robert Morrison, were originally donated to the Wellcome Library by Hobson's grandson Archibald in 1965. They are among the most regularly consulted components of the Western Manuscripts collection, and a project to publish Morrison's entire correspondence is currently in progress, based in Hong Kong. A few personal items were withheld from the original gift of papers, and the memoir was one of these. Mary Morrison died of cholera at Macao on 10 June 1821, but only much later, aboard ship, did Morrison find time to write the memoir, addressed to his two young children.

Asiatic cholera, perhaps long endemic in India, reached Britain for the first time in 1831. Faced by the near-inevitability of an epidemic, the Privy Council on 18 October recommended the establishment of local boards of health, 'to consist of the chief and other magistrates, the clergyman of the



parish, two or more physicians or medical practitioners, and three or more of the principal inhabitants.’ One of the many parishes that followed the recommendation was St Giles Camberwell, then on the fringes of the metropolis. A parochial committee was appointed on 7 November 1831 to prepare measures to combat cholera in Camberwell, Peckham and Dulwich. We have acquired the minutes of this committee (**MS 7104**), which appear to confirm the impression that the threat of cholera revealed the unusual level of social cohesion in England, by contemporary European standards. The disease appeared in London in February 1832, but there do not seem to have been any cases in Camberwell by the end of March, when the minutes end. The committee was superseded by the Camberwell Board of Health, appointed on 24 March 1832, the minutes of which are in Southwark Local Studies Library.

Press cuttings about cholera figure prominently in the commonplace and scrapbook of William Stott Maude (fl.1832–1865), a surgeon-apothecary of Elland, Yorkshire, which we purchased this year (**MS 7115**). The volume is a revealing record of the unglamorous world of the early-Victorian provincial practitioner, struggling to make a living from his largely impecunious patients, while trying to further his medical knowledge by copying the prescriptions of a senior colleague from Halifax. A letter from a fellow surgeon, James Hiley, pasted into the back of the volume by Maunde, is redolent of the dog-eat-dog realities of Victorian medical life:

Joseph Hodgson in the Doglane must pay you my share for delivering his wife in the arm presentation, and I well deserved one guinea, as any accoucheur will allow ... I attended with you Miss Bottomley in the Newstreet & charged nothing, in order that you might be amply paid ... Then I merely got 7/6d for delivering Washington’s wife in Greetland, which ought to have been one guinea. Thus upon the whole, I think you cannot complain of me.

At the opposite end of the social scale, the medical history of the royal family is a subject both of general interest and some importance, as likely to demonstrate state-of-the-art techniques and therapies. The Western Manuscripts

contain a good deal of material in this area, including papers of Sir William Gull on the treatment of the Prince of Wales for typhoid in 1871–72 (**MS 5873**), and of Sir Thomas Barlow, physician to the royal household towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign (**PP/BAR**). We have made a small addition to these holdings with the purchase of the diary of the illness of Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's second son, in April 1889 (**MS 7105**). Having caught a chill at a cricket match in Malta, where he was Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean fleet, the Duke took to his bed on 5 April with fever and disturbed digestion. The diary is a fair-copy record by his doctor, breaking off abruptly on 27 April, when the patient was still bedridden and running a high temperature. It came into the possession of Sir William Hickman (1837–1897), the Duke's surgeon from 1892.

Other acquisitions during 1994–95 included a French treatise on bandages, *c.*1700; two eighteenth-century English medical recipe books, and a separate recipe for a 'cerecloth for a sprain,' *c.*1725; an apothecary's bill, 1752–54; notes of lectures on legal medicine by Joseph Noel, director of the Strasbourg medical school, 1808; notes of lectures on osteology by Joshua Brookes, delivered at the anatomy theatre, Blenheim Street, taken by Edward Morton, 1821; certificates and other papers of Frederick Knight Hunt (1814–1854) and his son, Frederick Everard Hunt (1839–1900); a Leeds apothecary's cash and recipe book, mid-nineteenth century; certificates of Henry Walpole Hooper, 1878–83; a recipe book of the 1890s; letters of Fielding Hudson Garrison, the medical historian, to the publisher, Paul Hoeber, 1918–31; and the unpublished screenplay of a life of Lord Lister, by Mary Cathcart Borer.

### **Autograph Letters**

The Autograph Letters collection continued to grow during 1994–95, new accessions being catalogued on arrival. Here too we acquired an item relating to Sir William Hickman: from Sir William Jenner (1815–1898) to Hickman,



commenting on his appointment as surgeon to the Duke of Edinburgh and on the death of Sir Oscar Clayton (1816–1892), Hickman's predecessor in that position. To our collection of correspondence of John Coakley Lettsom (1744–1815) we added a letter from 'your dutiful & affectionate Son, Servant, Subject, & Patient Johannes Minimus' – presumably his son John Miers Lettsom – announcing his intention to 'smoak a pipe with you' the following day. The Autograph Letters collection also contains numerous papers by or concerning Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753); to these we added a letter by one Henry Newman (*below*), describing a visit to Sir Hans shortly after his retirement and move to Chelsea. Newman strikes a topical note when he

London. 21 Aug. 1742.

I thank you for the pleasure of yours  
of the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst. and hope the Kingdom in general enjoys  
the plenty and fine weather it pleases God to give you  
at Whitehaven. I thought S<sup>r</sup> Thomas always met you  
at the Apizes, but perhaps not at Carlisle.

I was this week to wait on S<sup>r</sup> Hans Sloane at Chelsea  
who was glad to hear of your health, he is most agreeably  
situated in his present Mansion House, and I hope his  
usefull life will be prolong'd many years by the change  
of his situation. He does not want company nor company  
of his situation. as much as he cares for, notwithstanding his  
retirement from the Town. He goes every Morning to  
the Coffeehouse of Parishes in his neighbourhood, whither  
he has made a passage through his own Garden  
by a new Door in the Wall that parts 'em, to which  
none has a Key but himself, and there the Gent.  
of the Town meet him who have leisure to form such  
a little Society as you w<sup>d</sup> be have at Meyers's.

As I told you he does not want company at the house  
after 5. or 6. afternoon to give his advice to Patients, or  
to let his Servant shew his apartments of Ensigns, &c.  
in both

A letter by Henry Newman, London, 21 August 1742.  
Autograph Letters collection, file SLOANE

explains that he was, 'oblig'd to ask Sr Hans's advice for an Asthma that I find growing upon me by a constant Residence in London Smoke.' We also added a lengthy letter to our papers relating to the eighteenth-century botanist and apothecary Richard Pulteney (1730–1801), in which a certain J Sutton describes his recent ill-health to Pulteney. For many in the eighteenth century, of course, illness might be addressed by resorting to Bath to take the waters. In another of the year's purchases, William Haseldine Pepys (1775–1856), writing to his fellow chemist William Allen (1770–1843), describes his attempts to analyse the Bath waters.

Care of the mentally disturbed features in two recently acquired letters. In the earlier, dating from 1745, one Philip Vincent reports back to Sir James Johnstone (1697–1772) on a visit to a mentally ill relative, probably George Johnstone (1720–1792), later third Marquess of Annandale. Vincent's mission, to assess both the young man's condition and the suitability of the home to which he has been removed, deep in the Hertfordshire countryside, is informed by the desire to avoid the need for restraint by removing opportunities for self-harm: 'I doubt the project of draining off the mootes cant well be effected,' he concludes, but even so,

after eight months no accident has happened either by any flight from home or by the water (... [except] but two slight attempts as to the latter wch to this hour I believe proceeded more from petite malice or waggery than despair). ...

A similar but more forcibly expressed desire animates the second letter, dating from 1826 and written by a certain Arabella Norfolk to a lawyer at Lincoln's Inn. In it she transcribes a letter she has written to the first Earl of Powis criticizing the care of his mentally disturbed relative William Robinson: 'were you to see poor William in his present helpless emaciated state, tortured with a mind sensitive beyond description, your lordship *would not, could not* for a moment harbour the thought of '*coecion*' or '*Restraint*' [:] as well you might think of using it towards a *Dying Infant* because it pined and moaned in its last agony!'



One short letter acquired this year relates not only to medicine but to a landmark of popular culture. It is a note written on board a transatlantic liner, thanking the author's doctor for a gargle, and asking for details of a spray for catarrh; the author is Edgar Wallace (1875–1932), the popular novelist. Although the note bears no date, evidence points to its being written in 1931. Wallace would have been bound for Hollywood, where he was to die the following year, shortly after completing the script to 'King Kong'.

Other additions to the Autograph Letters collection in 1994–95 included a letter from Burrell Massingberd (1683–1728) to his wife about prescriptions, 1726; a letter from a Dr Alexander Scott, surgeon of Winchelsea, to a colleague in Paddington, Richard Frankum, soliciting compensation for the father of a servant-girl who had died from typhus (endorsed 'refused'), 1827; a bill issued by W J Burthwick, family chemist of Penrith, 1855 (*over*); and various letters found inside books from the Modern Medicine collection during cataloguing.

## CATALOGUING AND INDEXING


### Manuscripts

Thirty-four items were added to the main manuscripts series during the year (**MSS 7102–7135**). Apart from new acquisitions, described above, these mainly comprised large and unwieldy groups of letters removed from the Autograph Letters collection. The file of letters by Sir George Biddell Airy (1801–1892), the Astronomer-Royal, was catalogued as MS 7108. Airy's correspondents included the astronomers Dominique Arago and Alexander Herschel, the anatomist Sir Richard Owen, the engineer Sir Daniel Gooch, the geographer Sir Roderick Murchison, the geologist Sir Charles Lyell and the science writer Dionysius Lardner; many of these figures are also represented elsewhere in our holdings. Similarly, some correspondence of the French chemist Michel Eugène Chevreul (1786–1889) was catalogued as MS 7125, and some of Henri-François-Xavier de Belzunce (1671–1755), a

*Wm J Burthwick*

*Penrith.*

**BURTHWICK.**



**BOUGHT OF W. J. BURTHWICK.**

*Family Chemist.*

*Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.*

July 9	2 Shells Pure Oil of Lemon	40
July 11	2 lb. Br. Gum Oil	12
July 11	2 lb. Sweet Oil	16
Aug 8	2 Shells Pure Oil of Lemon	31
July 11	2 lb. Br. Gum Oil	38
Aug 11	1 Gall. Must. Seed Oil	65
July 11	1 Gall. Do Do	68
July 11	1 Gall. Do Do	68
July 11	1 Gall. Must. Seed Oil	26
July 11	1 Gall. Do Do	23
July 11	1 Gall. Must. Seed Oil	16
July 11	1 Gall. Do Do	90
Aug 11	1 Gall. Must. Seed Oil	176
July 11	2 Shells Pure Oil of Lemon	30
July 11	1 Gall. Must. Seed Oil	6
July 11	1 Gall. Do Do	39

A bill issued in 1855 by W J Burthwick, family chemist of Penrith.  
Engraved scene showing exterior of the chemist's shop.  
Autograph Letters collection, file BURTHWICK



long-serving Archbishop of Marseilles who distinguished himself during the 1720–21 plague outbreak in Provence, as MS 7121. An assemblage of French documents relating to epidemic disease, spanning the period from the early sixteenth to the late nineteenth centuries, was also extracted from the Autograph Letters collection and catalogued as MS 7123.

An autograph collection that had presumably been intended for the Autograph Letters collection when purchased in the 1930s, but had remained unsorted, was also assigned a manuscript number and given one overall catalogue entry (**MS 7120**). The collection deals chiefly with lawyers, and includes not merely original documents but also some printed descriptive material. In one case, that of Sir Vicary Gibbs (1752–1820), an obituarist goes about his task with some relish:

Sir Vicary Gibbs won no laurels in private or public life; not that he was without private worth, but he was a thoroughly disagreeable person. Self-sufficient, petulant, irascible, and tyrannical; a foe to mirth and recreation, he seemed destined to live and die over the dry bones of Coke and Lyttleton. His diminutive figure and sour visage did not belie his nature.

Last year's Review noted the cataloguing of several hundred items – historical monographs or research notes, copies of manuscripts held in other repositories, and so forth – generated by or for the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, mainly during the 1930s. These items had been assigned manuscript numbers from 8000 onwards. They have now been augmented by several additions from the department's uncatalogued backlog, including notes, correspondence and illustrations relating to Henry Hill Hickman (1800–1830), the pioneer of anaesthesia, stemming from C J S Thompson's 1912 history of the subject, and Wellcome Museum exhibitions on Hickman himself (1930) and on anaesthesia in general (1946) (**MS 8966**); cuttings relating to the 1930 Wellcome Historical Medical Museum exhibition on chinchona (**MS 8967**); and material for and relating to the planned book (the project was aborted following Henry Wellcome's death in 1936) by David Fraser-Harris on the history of medicine in Wales

(MSS 8968–8989), this material complementing the many other papers on this project among our holdings.

The index to the letters of Henry Lee (1826–1888), mentioned as ‘in progress’ last year, has been completed as Western Manuscripts handlist no. 28. Lee, naturalist to the Brighton aquarium, is described in the *Dictionary of National Biography* as ‘popular in society,’ and his correspondence attests to his wide social circle. He seems to have had many friends in the theatre, whose letters are sometimes less stilted than most Victorian prose. One, writing in 1873, complained about self-censorship of the press concerning the exiled French emperor: ‘I am disgusted with their [i.e. the London papers]’ *purchased* toadyism in making such a fuss about the “*alarming illness of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor Napoleon,*”’ he rated, ‘when the fact is that a man named Louis Napoleon is suffering from the effects of early cock-flashing, and there are thousands in the Lock Hospitals in the same condition; Halleluyah! and the Daily Telegraph.’

### Barlow papers

The papers of the various members of Sir Thomas Barlow’s family have been catalogued and their correspondence indexed, where appropriate. The completed catalogue of the entire family archive (**PP/BAR**) will shortly be available in the Poynter Room, following final editing. Barlow had a number of distinguished relatives, not least his own children. His second son, Thomas Dalmahoy Barlow (1883–1964), entered the family textile business, became a prominent industrialist, Director-General of Civilian Clothing during the Second World War and, later, Chairman of the District Bank. On his first visit to America in 1906, as a young member of a British trade delegation, he breathlessly described to his mother his impressions of the city of Boston in terms that reveal the bewildering impact of large American cities on visitors from the more orderly environment of Britain. At one stage the party’s progress down the road was interrupted by ‘a great train of Heinz’s sauce



vans,' crossing the street without warning: 'you know them,' he continued to his mother, ' – one sees their advertisements all along the great English lines like Beecham's pills.'

### **Hodgkin papers**

Last year we noted that the large Hodgkin family archive (**PP/HO**) had been sorted and ordered, and that the task of detailed cataloguing and indexing was under way. This has now been completed. The first part of the collection to be listed was the papers of Thomas Hodgkin, MD (1798–1866), whose documentation was given priority as being the most likely to be consulted by historians of medicine, and which was largely catalogued at the time of last year's Review. The greater part of this year's work has been concerned with the papers of his brother, John Hodgkin junior (1800–1875), as well as their father, John Hodgkin senior (1766–1845), and John junior's brother-in-law, Luke Howard (1772–1864), and son, Thomas Hodgkin junior (1831–1913), the historian. At the time of writing, the catalogue is being edited, pending its production in the Poynter Room. In the meantime, as with the Barlow papers, access to the collection is possible via the staff of the Western Manuscripts department, and several researchers have made use of it during 1994–95.

The Hodgkin archive has been something of a new departure for the Department in terms of size and complexity, and new methods of cataloguing were called for to deal with it. Rather than simply assigning a run of manuscript numbers to the items in the collection, a hierarchical system of description was used – similar to that already employed by the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre – in which the reference given to each item serves not only as a unique identifier but also as a guide to its position in a structured arrangement. For example, the reference **PP/HO/D/A1500** translates as follows:

genre: personal papers	<b>PP/</b>
specific collection: Hodgkin	<b>HO/</b>
individual within that collection: Thomas Hodgkin MD	<b>D/</b>
document type: correspondence	<b>A/</b>
letter number:	<b>I500</b>

It is envisaged that such a system will be used in future for large, complex collections, leaving the manuscripts sequence for freestanding items or more homogenous groups of material where there is less need to demonstrate relationships between individual manuscripts.

### **Autograph letters**

Since the large Hodgkin archive has taken up the greater part of the Assistant Curator's cataloguing time, the project to computerize the Autograph Letters collection, which was described at some length last year, has rather remained on hold during 1994–95. However, we have continued to add to the trial database described in last year's Review; some 180 records were input this year. Although this represents only a small proportion of the whole, it is a large enough sample to permit intelligent forecasting about the project's timescale, and to provide an idea of how the database would function when publicly available.

In addition, details of all new accessions have been added to the existing card catalogue so as to maintain an up-to-date finding aid while the database is under construction.

## **CONSERVATION**

The Western Manuscripts department was one of two that enjoyed the benefits of direct access to the Library's own conservation facilities during 1994–95, under new arrangements to concentrate these resources on selected collections on an annual rota basis. Unfortunately, an untimely outbreak



of mould in the printed books stacks diverted the attention of conservation staff for a significant part of the year. Nevertheless, Barbara Luff conserved two important manuscripts, a seventeenth-century medical recipe book (**MS 373**), hitherto unfit for production, and Mrs Rundell's manual (**MS 7106**) (*over*), mentioned above, which was in fragile condition when acquired. This was conserved as a priority in anticipation of regular handling. In addition, some items from the Hodgkin papers were at the time of writing undergoing conservation.

A large quantity of four-flap folders was ordered for the complete refiling of the Autograph Letters collection to the highest standards. This will take place as part of the cataloguing project.

## READERS AND ENQUIRIES

Some 140 individual readers from outside the Library used Western Manuscripts and/or Autograph Letters during 1994–95, a slight increase on the previous year. Reader visits totalled 327, against 287 in 1993–94. Outside enquiries answered by letter or E-mail numbered about 105, apart from routine responses to requests for copies of the descriptive booklet on the Western Manuscripts, published in March 1995.

Research topics were again wide-ranging, with readers studying medicine in medieval universities, the history of anatomical illustration, episcopal licensing of medical practitioners, the history of nursing, alchemy, the history of pharmacy, Edward Jenner, lunacy, David Livingstone, the history of ophthalmology, Henry Hickman, and Louis Pasteur, to name only a handful. In addition, we provided assistance to two current projects for publishing historical correspondence, *The papers of Robert Morrison*, based in Hong Kong, and the *Correspondence of Joseph Black*, at Edinburgh. Patricia Crimmin, Senior Lecturer at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, was awarded the prestigious Julian Corbett Prize in naval history, for her report on the Nelson papers in our collection (**MSS 3667–3681**).



**Maria Eliza Rundell's manual on pregnancy and childcare, written for her daughter in 1810, after conservation. MS 7106.**



New accessions since 1992 led us to produce a revised edition of our guide to manuscripts for the history of women in medicine, a subject that shows no sign of losing its current popularity. We also began work on a guide to materials on tropical medicine.

## REPROGRAPHY

Requests for microfilm copies of 12 manuscripts were received, in addition to orders for positives of existing negative microfilms held in the Photographic Library. We also processed numerous orders for photocopies of loose papers.

Over the years we have also acquired microfilm copies of material held elsewhere, but these holdings had hitherto never been systematized. This year the accession of several microfilms of papers held by the Medical Society of London (WMS/MF/4) led us to take this task in hand: there is now a catalogue of microfilms held by the department of Western Manuscripts available in the Poynter Room, and for the first time such material can be ordered by readers in the conventional manner. The latest addition to the series (WMS/MF/5) is a microfilm copy of a thirteenth-century medical manuscript closely related to the Bury Articella (**MS 801a**), for which the Wellcome Library bid unsuccessfully at auction in 1988, and which remains in private hands.

A microfiche edition of the Wellcome Apocalypse (**MS 49**), the jewel in the crown of the Western Manuscripts collection, was published in the summer by the Munich publisher Helga Lengenfelder, with scholarly apparatus supplied (in English) by Dr Almuth Seeböhm (*Apokalypse, ars moriendi ...*, Codices illuminati medii aevi 39. Munich, H Lengenfelder, 1995.) This publication was some two-and-a-half years in preparation and it represents, we feel, a happy combination of scholarly merit, convenience and economy. A copy is available in the Wellcome Library for readers who do not require access to the original manuscript.

## PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

Chris Hilton's article, 'Elizabeth Gaskell and Mesmerism: an unpublished Letter,' appeared in *Medical History* (1995), 39, 219–35. An article on the Hodgkin papers was prepared for publication in a forthcoming issue.

The Curator's address to the Hunterian Society mentioned last year duly appeared in *Transactions of the Hunterian Society* (1993–94), 52, 24–30, which was published in 1995. A commentary on a medical letter by John Evelyn in the Autograph Letters collection was submitted for publication in *Medical History* (1995), 39, 493–99. In addition, the Curator supplied brief contributions for inclusion in *The Friends of the Wellcome Institute Newsletter* (on Pasteur) and *TRP3* (on patent medicines).

The descriptive booklet on the Western Manuscripts collection was published in March 1995, following some three years' gestation. The text as printed was substantially abbreviated and simplified, in keeping with its purpose as an introductory overview of the holdings for the non-specialist. Copies are available free of charge from the Curator and on Library publications displays.

The catalogue of manuscripts by Richard Palmer, mentioned last year, is, at the time of writing, at the proofreading stage. Publication is scheduled for 1996.

## MEETINGS, VISITS AND EXHIBITIONS

In October 1994 the Curator gave an illustrated talk to the Friends of the Wellcome Institute about the Western Manuscripts collection. Chris Hilton gave introductory talks, illustrated with selected items, to BSc students attached to the Institute in November 1994, and to new members of Wellcome Trust staff on an induction course in February. He and the Curator talked to postgraduate students from the Institute of Historical Research in April and September 1995, respectively. The Curator also gave tours of the Library to visitors from the Hunterian Society, in March and August.

An interesting exhibition of Library materials on the history of phrenology



entitled 'Talking heads' was mounted by Chris Hilton in Spring 1995, with assistance from Ken Arnold, the Wellcome Institute's exhibitions officer. Various items from the Western Manuscripts collection were employed in the main exhibition gallery displays, 'Animal doctor' and 'Fatal attractions,' the latter making use of, among others, two exhibits about syphilis from recent accessions, the Whytt and Ballinghall papers (see *Annual Review 1991–1992; Fatal attractions, AIDS and syphilis from medical, public and personal perspectives*, 1995). A few items were also used in the Library display mounted to coincide with the symposium on women in modern medicine in November 1994, including the Rundell manuscript described above. Lastly, various Western Manuscripts were used by Professor Vivian Nutton, as in former years, to illustrate lectures to BSc students and students of Greek palaeography from London University, under the supervision of departmental staff.

The Curator attended two one-day conferences, on MA programmes at the Institute of Historical Research in May, and the AMARC (Association for Manuscripts and Archives in Research Collections) summer conference in Oxford in June. Both members of staff visited the Medical Society of London in May, accompanied by the head of Conservation, to advise on the Society's manuscripts. Staff of the Department also heard a number of papers read at symposia and seminars held in the Wellcome Building.

## **MEDICAL ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS SURVEY (MAMS)**

The emphasis this year has been on London's local government record offices. Chris Hilton surveyed the collections of the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Lewisham, Bromley and Wandsworth, and updated the existing survey report on the Greater London Record Office, to take account of the GLRO Modern Records, which were recently transferred to the main office in Clerkenwell. He also undertook the daunting task of rationalizing

the voluminous records of the MAMS project, going back to 1986. The Curator surveyed the records in the Corporation of London Record Office, and the collections of the London boroughs of Lambeth and Hounslow.

Staff of the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre, with whom MAMS is a joint project, compiled reports on the Science Museum library, the Natural History Museum, Imperial College, King's College London, the Fawcett Library, Dr Williams's Library, the Bishopsgate Institute, the British Psychoanalytical Society, and the London boroughs of Camden, Chelsea, Enfield, Havering, Newham, Southwark and Waltham Forest.

A new publicity leaflet for the project was produced in conjunction with the Wellcome Trust Publishing department. Copies have been distributed to Friends of the Wellcome Institute, and are available in the Library or from the Curator.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

The Curator continued to act as Poynter Room (Rare Materials reading room) manager, responsible for the day-to-day administration of the room and its systems. As in the previous year, he collated and tabulated statistics of use, which continued to show a steady rise in the number of reader visits since the opening of the room in October 1992.

The Curator was elected to the library committee of the Linnaean Society and was appointed Wellcome Institute representative on the Inter-Society committee on anniversaries.



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